

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-15 and 17-21 remain pending after response.

Holding of Non-Responsiveness

Applicants traverse the Examiner's indication that their prior response was non-responsive. In the prior response, applicants address with specificity each and every rejection of the Examiner. The Examiner's sole objection appears to be that applicants did not indicate how the newly-presented claim 21 distinguishes over the cited prior art. While applicants' do not believe that they are under such a burden, in an attempt to expedite prosecution of the above application, applicants submit herewith reasons in support of allowance of new dependent claim 21.

New Claim 21

Applicants added the following new claim 21 in the prior response for the sake of completeness:

21. (**New**) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said left and right wing portions include portions disposed between said intermediate central portion and said front end portion of said elongate body which extend laterally from said elongate absorbent body a distance greater than said left and right wing portions extend laterally from said elongate absorbent body adjacent said intermediate central portion and said front end portion.

New claim 21 depends from claim 1.

Claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth at length at pages 11-13 of applicants' prior response. For instance, as discussed during the interview, it was agreed that claim 1 would be amended to clarify that the left and right wing portions extend along the entire left and right sides of the absorbent body. In addition, claim 1 as amended now states that a rearmost portion of each of the left and right wing portions terminates at and is coextensive with a rearmost portion of the rear end portion of the elongate absorbent body. In view of such amendments, and taken with the distinguishing comments presented therein, claim 1 is believed to be directed to allowable subject matter.

New claim 21, as stated above, is presented for the sake of completeness, and is directed to wing portions 3a and 3b of Figure 1. Taken together with the limitations of claim 1 from which claim 21 depends, claim 21 is allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, all outstanding issues are believed to be satisfactorily addressed. The application is accordingly believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the

telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


By 

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